

What is 'Seafarers link'

It's a free fortnightly telephone conference that links retired seafarers

Taking part in one of these groups is a great way to recharge your batteries. It's an opportunity to reminisce about the past with people who have shared your experiences, and also a way to make new friendships. There are 8 people in each group and they are led by an organiser

Who can join?

If you have served in the Royal Navy, Merchant Navy or worked in the fishing fleets, you can join us.

How will it work?

Telephone conference social groups are a way to link people together so that they are able to talk to each other at the same time.

Every two weeks, at a set time, everyone in the local group receives a call which networks them to the others in their group, and they then have up to an hour's conversation **FREE OF CHARGE!**

Will joining make a difference to you?

Absolutely! Feeling that you belong, widening your circle of acquaintances and making new friends is the very stuff of life. Sadly, because of the rate at which we all live, there is often little time for this to happen.

However, one of the great benefits of being retired is that there is finally time to enjoy these things. 'Seafarers Link' offers a grand opportunity to create new relationships for the future and build upon your wealth of past experience. Even if you can't get out and about as much as you used to, you can still widen your social circle from the comfort of your own home just by joining a free telephone social group



Can you help?

Do you feel you could be an organiser?

As you can imagine, 8 people all talking at once doesn't really work, so some kind of organisation is needed. We are looking for retired seafarers who share the same background as the others in the group and would be prepared to take on the role.

They will be trained in running teleconference groups by the charity Community Network and will have their expenses paid. They will become members of CSV's Retired & Senior Volunteer Programme which, together with its National 'Seafarers Link' Co-ordinator, will help in planning the sessions





What is RSVP?

In 1987, RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Programme) developed as part of Community Service Volunteers (CSV), with the aim of encouraging people over the age of 50 to volunteer in their communities.

To date, some 13,000 people are actively involved throughout the UK in a wide range of activities — helping schoolchildren with their reading, assisting in Hospitals, GP surgeries, providing transport in rural areas, feeding the homeless, combating isolation by setting up knitting and lunch clubs, and much more.

It is a volunteer led and managed organisation, with a small paid staff.



WORKING TOGETHER

RSVP will work with **Community Network** which has already set up a number of successful tele-conference befriending groups, and will train the organisers in their role.

Funding for the project is provided by the **Maritime Charities Funding Group** whose members are:

- Seafarers UK
- Merchant Navy Welfare Board
- Seamen's Hospital Society
- Trinity House
- Numast Welfare Funds
- ITF Seafarers Trust
- Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity

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Maritime
Charities
Funding Group



SEAFARERS LINK



COMMUNICATION!
As important at home as it
was at sea

SEAFARERS LINK
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between those who have served in
the Royal Navy, Merchant Navy
and the fishing fleets

